The scheme of Non-formal Education has been restructured by the Central Government and now called 'Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education'.

Computer studies in schools of NER

3900. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for computer literacy and studies for schools in the North-Eastern States;

(b) the total amount of funds released, so far, for this scheme, to each State of North-Eastern Region; and

(c) by when all schools are likely to be covered under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The scheme of Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) was introduced as a Pilot Project during the year 1984-85 in the wake of the British Aid of BBC Micro Computer. The project was subsequently adopted as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme during VIII Plan and financial assistance provided to States/UTs for Hardware and engagement of selected agencies for maintaining the project. The scheme has been discontinued from 1997-98.

(b) The total amount of funds released, so far, under the CLASS Scheme to the States of North-Eastern Region is given below:

1. Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 42,17,000/-
2. Assam	Rs. 2,34,50,000/-
3. Manipur	Rs. 50,53,000/-
4. Mizoram	Rs. 47,44,000/-
5. Nagaland	Rs. 59,99,840/-
6. Tripura	Rs. 1,21,75,340/-

7. Sikkim	Rs. 48,57,000/-
8. Meghalaya	Rs. 69,24,000/-
TOTAL	Rs. 6,74,20,180/-

(c) No fresh grant is being released under the existing scheme of Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools, as it is currently under modification.

Computer literacy

3901. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what new steps have been taken by the Central Government, State Governments Schools and Colleges for increasing computer literacy in the country;

(b) which State has taken detailed steps and is leading the country in Computer Literacy;

(c) what is the position of Uttar Pradesh and other North-Indian States in this matter; and

(d) whether it is a part of new Education Policy to give impetus and incentive for computer literacy and detailed computer education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The Department of Secondary and Higher Education is in the midst of revising the Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) Scheme. Different States/UTs are also making efforts for introducing/ promoting Computer Literacy in their respective States/UTs. No study has been conducted to evaluate the status of Computer Literacy in different States/UTs/Colleges etc.

(d) Yes, Sir.